Tests for Agni Missiles

820. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tests carried out in respect of Agni Missile so far; and

(b) when was the last test undertaken and by when it is proposed to undertake the next one?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Three flight tests of technology demonstrator vehicle under project 'Agni' have been carried out.

(b) The third test was carried out on 19.2.1994. With the three tests, the re-entry technology demonstration under the project 'Agni' has been successfully completed. It has been decided to accord high priority to next phase of 'Agni' programme.

Induction of Arjun Tanks in the Army

821. SHRI YERRA NARAYANA SWAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Arjun Tanks are likely to be inducted for service in the Army;

(b) whether the various defects that had come to the notice have been removed; and

(c) the cost of Arjun tank vis-a-vis the Russian T-72 and T-80 tanks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) Arjun Tanks are planned to be inducted in the Army in the 9th Five Year Plan.

(b) User trials of the modified version of the Tanks have been held and the trial reports are awaited.

(c) Cost of Arjun Tanks on the basis of 1996 estimates of Department of Defence Production and Supplies is Rs. 10.8 Crores per tank. Cost comparison between Arjun and T-72/T-80 tanks will not be appropriate as they are of different class.

Threat perception to CBI officials investigating Fodder Scam

822. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the officials of the CBI investigating fodder scam are on threat perception;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to provide adequate security and safety to CBI official dealing with sensitive scams; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Police excesses in the Capital

823. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that police excesses in the capital are rapidly increasing and it has been placed in the 2nd position;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken or propose to take any concrete steps in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) There was some increase during 1996 in the number of vigilance inquiries conducted against police officers for alleged excesses/harassment as compared to the preceding year.

(b) and (c) In order to effectively curb the incidents of police excesses/

harassment as also to inspire public confidence in police, prompt and strict deterrent action is taken against the policemen found involved in such lapses. This includes registration of criminal cases against them, suspension, initiation of departmental proceedings, summary dismissal in serious cases, etc. Delhi Police also maintain a close watch over officers of doubtful integrity.

Proposal to join the Interpol Communications Network

824. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to join the Interpol Communications Network by latest X-400.

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith likely benefit emerging out of it;

(c) whether a final decision has been taken in this regard;

(d) if so, by when it is likely to be implemented;

(e) whether the Interpol is likely to develop a new criminal information system by including a variety of subjects; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (f) A decision has been taken to join the Interpol Tele-communication Network which is based on the X-400 protocol. This is an exclusive network which can be accessed by only Interpol member countries and Interpol General Secretariat. The network will allow data and images to be passed between member countries themselves and with Interpol General Secretariat. There will also be provision for online encryption of the communication. It is likely to be implemented by the and of the corrent year.

The Interpol General Secretariat ahs a programme to develop a new Criminal Information System. The main technical advantage of the new system will be the introduction of intelligent consultation software. The following subjects are proposed to be developed over the next five years:— (i) Money Laundering, (ii) Credit Cards, (iii) Stolen Passports, (iv) Identity Document, (v) Cheques, (vi) Address Book and (vii) Paedophilia.

Terrorist activities in North-Eastern region

825. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA:
SHRI SHIV CHARAN SINGH:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a marked spurt in terrorist activities and killings by the ultras of North-East region in recent past especially during the last six months;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the circumstances which hve led to this situation; and

(c) what is the strategy of Government to tide over the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Certain States in the North-Eastern Region have varying degrees of militancy and terrorism. It cannot be said that there is a marked spurt in terrorist activities and killings in recent past. The Government have adopted a multi pronged strategy to tide over the situation which includes, *inter-alia*, offer of unconditional talks, deployment of additional units of the Central Para-Military Forces and the Army, improved coordination and sharing of intelligence, sanction of India Reserve Battalions, Moidernisation/upgradation of State